

<http://www.vitalweekly.net/1196.html>

DEREK PIOTR - AVIA (CD by DPSR)

Continuing a steady string of great albums is Derek Piotr from the USA and the quality goes up and up. In the earliest work, he showed an interest in processing his voice and was not unlike the work of AGF. But over time his music slowed changed and expanded and this new work sets off in a different direction. Two days after he finished his previous album 'Grunt' (Vital Weekly 1149) his grandmother passed away. This new album is about his grandmother and central is her voice. Piotr started to record her voice when she was 91 until her death at 99. The music is based on instruments, generated with computers and some played by Piotr or friends. These instruments include organ, violin, viola da gamba, piano, harp, keyboards, glass marimba and saxophone. I would think and it uses snippets of conversations, which I believe were taped in secret. Well, one side of it anyway, as we only hear the grandmother's voice. Piotr used some of his voice material to create drones. It is not that these voices prevail, as Piotr created a rather musical album, in which voices occur seemingly random; popping up out of the blue and disappearing again. These voices give the music a rather field recording-like character and it works well. It sounds like a documentary, even when we don't always know what is said, or what it is about. The music is melodic and rather sad, with minor chords and melancholic tunes and it is perhaps the most musical work by Piotr so far. Expanding his musical horizons certainly pays off here and while not entirely leaving his original body of work; it is good to see it extended to other areas. This is part microsound, part glitch and yet also has quite a modern classical feel to it. This is his best work so far! I'm very curious to hear his next move. (FdW)

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